

South Dakota LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

News Release

April 20, 2000

BEEF, SHEEP AND LAMB PRODUCTION UP FROM LAST YEAR

SIoux FALLS, April 20, 2000 -- Commercial red meat production for South Dakota totaled 84.9 million pounds during March. This was up 9 percent from last month but down 9 percent from one year ago, according to USDA's South Dakota Ag Statistics Service. For March, beef, and sheep and lamb production were up from a year ago, while pork production was down.

Commercial hog slaughter for South Dakota totaled 343,300 head during March compared to 391,500 head last year. Average live weight was 258 pounds, which was down 5 pounds from 1999. Federally inspected slaughter totaled 341,900 head, which was comprised of 16,100 sows, and 325,900 barrows and gilts.

Commercial cattle slaughter for South Dakota totaled 25,400 head during March compared to 24,400 head last year. Average live weight was 1,430 pounds, which was up 28 pounds from 1999. Federally inspected slaughter totaled 23,100 head, which was comprised of 1,600 steers, 700 heifers, 17,200 cows, and 3,600 bulls.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter for South Dakota totaled 1,700 head during March compared to 400 head last year. Average live weight was 117 pounds, which was down 23 pounds from last year. Federally inspected slaughter totaled 1,600 head of lambs and yearlings.

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